

Albuquerque Area – Site for a Demonstration Project to Educate American Indian Elders About Federal Benefits

Several federal agencies are participating in an educational outreach demonstration to educate American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) about federal programs. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the Social Security Administration (SSA), and the Indian Health Service (IHS) recently entered into a 2-year interagency agreement. The interagency agreement is designed to identify strategies that will adapt existing Medicare and Social Security information into products that are culturally and linguistically appropriate for AI/AN elders. The agencies are working with the National Indian Council on Aging to design the project.

Albuquerque, New Mexico has been selected as a demonstration site for the educational outreach. The target population will be Medicare and/or Social Security eligible beneficiaries who belong to one of the five following Pueblo Tribes: Jemez, Isleta, Sandia, Santa Ana, and Zia. The Albuquerque area was selected because it is an area where both IHS health facilities and Medicare-participating facilities exist, there are a limited number of languages within the tribes selected, and the Pueblo communities and their leaders are receptive to participating in the demonstration. The demonstration is expected to begin in the near future.

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